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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/52/637)*]

52/94. United Nations Development Fund for Women

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 31/133 of 16 December 1976, in which it established the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women, and the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women,[1] which reaffirmed that the Fund had the mandate to increase options and opportunities for women's economic and social development in developing countries,

Recalling also its resolution 39/125 of 14 December 1984, in which it decided to transform the Voluntary Fund into the United Nations Development Fund for Women and to make the Fund a separate and identifiable entity in autonomous association with the United Nations Development Programme,

Stressing the important contribution the Fund continues to make in providing technical assistance to enable Governments and organizations of the United Nations system, as well as other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to formulate and support policies and innovative activities that directly benefit and empower women,

Considering the innovative and experimental activities of the Fund directed towards strengthening both governmental and non-governmental institutional capacities to ensure women access to development cooperation resources and full participation at all levels in the development process,

Taking note of the importance of the work of the Consultative Committee on the United Nations Development Fund for Women in policy and programme directions, in accordance with the mandate of the Fund,

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[1] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

1. *Takes note* of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report on the activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women;[2]

2. *Emphasizes* the important work of the Fund in women's empowerment and gender equality within the framework of implementing the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women, and, in that context, notes the recently adopted strategy and business plan;

3. *Reaffirms* the catalytic role of the Fund in further developing and strengthening women's empowerment by enhancing the integration of a gender perspective into all development programmes, in accordance with its mandate;

4. *Stresses* the role of the Fund as a development fund in supporting activities related to women's economic and social development in developing countries;

5. *Notes* the intention of the Fund further to focus its interventions in support of women's empowerment and gender equality;

6. *Encourages* the Fund to continue to contribute to mainstreaming a gender perspective into all development efforts of Governments, organizations of the United Nations system and civil society;

7. *Also encourages* the Fund to strengthen its work within the United Nations system at the national level through the resident coordinator system, focusing on strategic interventions and building upon its comparative advantages, in order to promote systemic change, in particular with regard to women's political and economic empowerment;

8. *Endorses* the role of the Fund in strengthening women's economic capacity, encouraging women to become key economic players in combating the feminization of poverty and strengthening women's leadership and political empowerment so as to increase their participation in decision-making processes;

9. *Recognizes* the important role the Fund plays in promoting the realization of women's civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights so as to facilitate their full participation in society;

10. *Welcomes* the operationalization of the Trust Fund in Support of Action to Eliminate Violence against Women, and requests the United Nations Development Fund for Women to disseminate information on best practices and strategic interventions funded under that initiative which should contribute to the eradication of violence against women as an obstacle to development;

11. *Encourages* the United Nations Development Fund for Women, in order to fulfil its mandate, to continue to mobilize resources for its activities in a comprehensive manner from all available sources, including the private sector, and urges all Member States to contribute and to consider increasing their contributions to the Fund;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session a report on the activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women, to be submitted in accordance with resolution 39/125.

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[2] A/52/300, annex.

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[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/52/637)*]

52/95. International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 50/163 of 22 December 1995,

Taking note of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/39 of 25 July 1996,

Taking note also of the report of the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women on its seventeenth session,[1]

Reaffirming paragraph 334 of the Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women on 15 September 1995,[2]

Concerned about the declining resource base of the Institute,

1. *Welcomes* the appointment of the Director of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, and takes note with appreciation of the work done by the previous Acting Director;

2. *Urges* the Secretary-General to fill the existing vacancies in the Institute in order to permit it to carry out its mandate;

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[1] E/1997/53.

[2] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

3. *Emphasizes* the role of the Institute as the only gender unit for research and training within the United Nations system, and reiterates the relevant provisions contained in the agreed conclusions 1997/3 of 21 July 1997 of the Economic and Social Council;[3]

4. *Requests* the Institute to continue its cooperation with relevant entities of the United Nations system;

5. *Also requests* the Institute to better coordinate its activities for gender mainstreaming with relevant entities of the United Nations system with a view to developing joint activities and work plans in appropriate areas;

6. *Welcomes* the fact that in its activities the Institute places a high priority on the obstacles that limit or impede women from becoming equal partners in development;

7. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Governments and organizations that have contributed to and supported the activities of the Institute;

8. *Invites* Member States, intergovernmental organizations, the private sector and civil society to contribute generously to the United Nations Trust Fund for the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, thus enabling the Institute to respond effectively to its mandate;

9. *Requests* the Director of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women to develop a funding strategy and to establish a link between the activities of the Institute and its resource base;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

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[3] A/52/3, chap. IV, sect. B. For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 3*.

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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/52/637)*]

52/96. Improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat

The General Assembly,

Recalling Articles 1 and 101 of the Charter of the United Nations, as well as Article 8, which provides that the United Nations shall place no restrictions on the eligibility of men and women to participate in any capacity and under conditions of equality in its principal and subsidiary organs,

Recalling also the goal, contained in the Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women,[1] of the achievement of overall gender equality, particularly at the Professional level and above, by the year 2000,

Recalling further its resolution 51/67 of 12 December 1996 and section C of its resolution 51/226 of 3 April 1997 on the status of women in the Secretariat,

Welcoming the achievement of the interim goal set in its resolution 45/125 of 14 December 1990 of a 35 per cent overall participation rate of women in posts subject to geographical distribution,

Concerned that the interim goal set in its resolution 45/239 C of 21 December 1990 of a 25 per cent participation rate of women in posts at the D-1 level and above is still far from being achieved and that the representation of women at that level remains unacceptably low,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General and the recommendations contained therein;[2]

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[1] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[2] A/52/408.

2. *Reaffirms* the goal of 50/50 gender distribution by the year 2000 in all categories of posts within the United Nations system, especially at the D-1 level and above, with full respect for the principle of equitable geographical distribution, in conformity with Article 101 of the Charter of the United Nations, and also taking into account the lack of representation or under-representation of women from certain countries, in particular from developing countries as well as countries with economies in transition;

3. *Welcomes* the personal commitment of the Secretary-General to meeting that goal and his assurance that gender balance will be given the highest priority in his continuing efforts to bring about a new management culture in the Organization;

4. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to implement fully and to monitor the strategic plan of action for the improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat (1995-2000)[3] in order to achieve the goal of 50/50 gender distribution by the year 2000, especially at the D-1 level and above;

5. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to appoint more women as special representatives and envoys and to pursue good offices on his behalf in matters related to peacekeeping, preventive diplomacy and economic and social development, as well as to appoint more women to other high-level positions;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that individual managers are held accountable for implementing the strategic plan within their areas of responsibility;

7. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue his work to create a gender-sensitive work environment supportive of the needs of his staff, both women and men, including through the development of policies for flexible working time, workplace possibilities, family leave, childcare and elder-care needs, as well as through training, particularly at senior levels, and the implementation of all appropriate administrative procedures, in particular the special measures outlined in his report, and through further development of a policy against sexual harassment;

8. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to enable the Focal Point for Women in the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women to effectively monitor and facilitate progress on the implementation of the strategic plan, including by ensuring access to the information required to carry out that work;

9. *Strongly encourages* Member States to support the efforts of the United Nations and the specialized agencies to achieve the goal of 50/50 gender distribution, especially at the D-1 level and above, by identifying and regularly submitting more women candidates and encouraging more women to apply for those positions within the Secretariat, the specialized agencies and the regional commissions;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of the present resolution, including by providing statistics on the number and percentage of women in all organizational units and at all levels throughout the United Nations system, to the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-second session and to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session.

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[3] A/49/587 and Corr.1, sect. IV.

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[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/52/637)*]

52/97. Violence against women migrant workers

The General Assembly,

Recalling all previous resolutions on violence against women migrant workers adopted by the General Assembly, the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, as well as the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women,[1]

Reaffirming the outcome of the World Conference on Human Rights, held at Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993,[2] the International Conference on Population and Development,[3] the World Summit for Social Development[4] and the Fourth World Conference on Women,[5] specifically as the results pertain to women migrant workers,

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[1] Resolution 48/104.

[2] See A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[3] See *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18).

[4] See *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8).

[5] See *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13).

Emphasizing the need for accurate, objective and comprehensive information, as well as for a wide exchange of experiences and lessons learned by individual countries in protecting and promoting the rights and welfare of women migrant workers for policy formulation and joint action,

Acknowledging the results of the Expert Group Meeting on Violence against Women Migrant Workers, held at Manila from 27 to 31 May 1996, and the comments thereon by Member States and relevant international organizations,

Noting the large numbers of women from developing countries and some countries with economies in transition who continue to venture forth to more affluent countries in search of a living for themselves and their families as a consequence of poverty, unemployment and other socio-economic conditions, and acknowledging the duty of the sending States to work for conditions that provide employment and security to their citizens,

Acknowledging the economic benefits that accrue to sending and receiving States from the employment of women migrant workers,

Recognizing the importance of joint and collaborative approaches at the bilateral, regional, interregional and international levels in protecting and promoting the rights and welfare of women migrant workers,

Underlining the important role of relevant United Nations treaty bodies in monitoring the implementation of human rights conventions and the relevant special procedures, within their respective mandates, in addressing the problem of violence against women migrant workers and in protecting and promoting their rights and welfare,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on violence against women migrant workers;[6]

2. *Encourages* concerned Governments, in particular those of sending and receiving countries, to develop, as appropriate, systematic data collection methods and to update and share information on violence against women migrant workers;

3. *Urges* concerned Governments, in particular those of sending and receiving countries, to strengthen their national efforts to protect and promote the rights and welfare of women migrant workers, including through sustained bilateral, regional, interregional and international cooperation, by developing strategies and joint action and by taking into account the innovative approaches and experiences of individual Member States;

4. *Also urges* concerned Governments, in particular those of sending and receiving countries, to support and allocate appropriate resources for programmes aimed at strengthening preventive action, in particular information for relevant target groups and education and campaigns to increase public awareness of this issue at the national and grassroots levels, in cooperation with non-governmental organizations;

5. *Encourages* concerned Governments, in particular those of sending and receiving countries, to support training programmes for public officials dealing with the problem of violence against women migrant workers, in particular law enforcers, to assist women migrant workers who are victims of violence, to provide, in the reporting of such cases and the prosecution of the perpetrators, adequate consular, counselling, legal and welfare services and to consider adopting appropriate legal measures against intermediaries who deliberately encourage the clandestine movement of workers and who exploit women migrant workers;

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[6] A/52/356.

6. *Encourages* Member States to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families,[7] as well as the Slavery Convention of 1926;[8]

7. *Invites* all relevant United Nations human rights treaty bodies, in particular the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, relevant thematic and country rapporteurs, in particular the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on violence against women, its causes and consequences, the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and its working groups, within their respective mandates, to address the problem of violence against women migrant workers in their deliberations and findings, with a view to promoting and protecting their rights and welfare;

8. *Invites* the Commission on the Status of Women to address the issue of violence against women migrant workers at its forty-second session under the thematic issues on violence against women and/or human rights of women;

9. *Invites* the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Human Rights, at their sessions in 1998, to address the protection and promotion of the rights and welfare of women migrant workers in connection with the five-year review of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action[2] and the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;[9]

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session a comprehensive report on the problem of violence against women migrant workers, taking into account the views of Member States and based on the expertise and all available information from the organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Development Fund for Women, the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, the International Organization for Migration and other relevant sources, including non-governmental organizations, as well as to report on the implementation of the present resolution.

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[7] Resolution 45/158, annex.

[8] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 212, No. 2861.

[9] Resolution 217 A (III).

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[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/52/637)*]

52/98. Traffic in women and girls

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the principles set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[1] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[2] the International Covenants on Human Rights,[3] the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment,[4] the Convention on the Rights of the Child[5] and the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women,[6]

Recalling the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others,[7]

Recalling also its resolution 51/66 of 12 December 1996 on traffic in women and girls,

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[1] Resolution 217 A (III).

[2] Resolution 34/180, annex.

[3] Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[4] Resolution 39/46, annex.

[5] Resolution 44/25, annex.

[6] Resolution 48/104.

[7] Resolution 317 (IV).

Reaffirming the provisions of the outcome of the World Conference on Human Rights, held at Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993,[8] the International Conference on Population and Development,[9] the World Summit for Social Development,[10] the Fourth World Conference on Women[11] and the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, held at Cairo from 29 April to 8 May 1995,[12] pertaining to the traffic in women and children,

Noting with concern the increasing number of women and girl children from developing countries and from some countries with economies in transition who are being victimized by traffickers, and acknowledging that the problem of trafficking also includes the victimizing of young boys,

Emphasizing the need for more concerted and sustained national, regional and international action on the alarming levels of trafficking in women and girls,

Acknowledging the continuing work of Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in combating trafficking in women and girls through preventive education, dissemination of information, research and the provision of shelters and programmes to rehabilitate and reintegrate survivors in society,

Deeply concerned with the increasing unabated use of new information technologies for purposes of prostitution, child pornography, paedophilia, sex tourism and trafficking in women as brides,

Convinced of the need to eliminate all forms of sexual violence and sexual trafficking, including for prostitution and other forms of commercial sex, and convinced also that sexual violence and sexual trafficking are violations of the human rights of women and girl children and are incompatible with the dignity and worth of the human person,

Stressing the need for Governments to accord standard minimum humanitarian treatment to trafficked persons consistent with human rights standards,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the traffic in women and girls;[13]

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[8] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[9] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[10] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[11] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[12] See A/CONF.169/16.

[13] A/52/355.

2. *Welcomes* national, regional and international efforts to implement the recommendations of the World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children,[14] and calls upon Governments to take further measures in that regard;

3. *Also welcomes* actions undertaken by Governments to implement the provisions on trafficking in women and girls contained in the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women[15] and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights,[8] and calls upon Governments, particularly those of countries of origin, transit and destination, as well as regional and international organizations, as appropriate, to undertake immediate action or to strengthen efforts in their implementation by:

(*a*) Considering the ratification and enforcement of international conventions on trafficking in persons and on slavery;

(*b*) Taking appropriate measures to address the root factors, including external factors, that encourage trafficking in women and girls for prostitution and other forms of commercialized sex, forced marriage and forced labour, so as to eliminate trafficking in women, including by strengthening existing legislation, with a view to providing better protection of the rights of women and girls and to punishing perpetrators, through both criminal and civil measures;

(*c*) Stepping up cooperation and concerted action by all relevant law enforcement authorities and institutions with a view to dismantling national, regional and international networks in trafficking;

(*d*) Allocating resources to provide comprehensive programmes designed to heal and rehabilitate into society victims of trafficking, including through job training, legal assistance and confidential health care, and by taking measures to cooperate with non-governmental organizations to provide for the social, medical and psychological care of the victims of trafficking;

(*e*) Developing educational and training programmes and policies and considering enacting legislation to prevent sex tourism and trafficking, giving special emphasis to the protection of young women and children;

4. *Calls upon* Governments to criminalize trafficking in women and girls in all its forms, to condemn and penalize all those offenders involved, including intermediaries, whether their offence was committed in their own or in a foreign country, while ensuring that the victims of those practices are not penalized, and to penalize persons in authority found guilty of sexually assaulting victims of trafficking in their custody;

5. *Urges* concerned Governments to support and allocate resources for programmes to strengthen preventive action, in particular education and campaigns to increase public awareness of the issue at the national and grass-roots level, and for programmes which provide shelter and helplines to victims or potential victims;

6. *Encourages* Governments to develop systematic data-collection methods and to continuously update information on trafficking in women and girls, including the analysis of the modus operandi of trafficking syndicates;

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[14] *World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, Stockholm, 27-31 August 1996, Final Report of the Congress*, two volumes (Stockholm, Government of Sweden, January 1997).

[15] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

7. *Urges* Governments to strengthen national programmes to combat trafficking in women and girls through sustained bilateral, regional and international cooperation, taking into account innovative approaches and best practices;

8. *Invites* Governments once again, with the support of the United Nations, to formulate training manuals for law enforcement and medical personnel and judicial officers who handle cases of trafficked women and girls, taking into account current research and materials on traumatic stress and gender-sensitive counselling techniques, with a view to sensitizing them to the special needs of victims;

9. *Invites* Governments and civil society, especially non-governmental organizations, to the extent consistent with freedom of expression, to promote the responsible use of new information technologies, in particular the Internet, to prevent trafficking in women and girls;

10. *Invites* States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[2] and the Convention on the Rights of the Child[5] to include information and statistics on trafficking in women and girls as part of their national reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, taking into account the general recommendation of the Committee, and to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, respectively;

11. *Invites* the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on violence against women, its causes and consequences, the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities of the Commission on Human Rights to continue addressing, within their respective mandates, the problem of trafficking in women and girls as a priority concern and to recommend, in their reports, measures to combat such phenomena;

12. *Encourages* the Inter-Agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality to continue to address the issue as part of the integrated follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women;

13. *Invites* the Commission on the Status of Women, at its next session, to address the subject of the traffic in women and girls under the thematic issues on violence against women and the human rights of women;

14. *Invites* the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Human Rights, at their sessions in 1998, to address trafficking in women and girls in connection with the five-year review of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action and in commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;[1]

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session on the implementation of the present resolution, in particular the implementation of the relevant provisions on trafficking in women and girls in the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action.

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[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/52/637)*]

52/99. Traditional or customary practices affecting the health of women and girls

The General Assembly,

Recalling:

(*a*) General Assembly resolution 843 (IX) of 17 December 1954, Economic and Social Council resolution 1997/24 of 21 July 1997, Commission on Human Rights decision 1997/108 of 22 August 1997,[1] and Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities resolutions 1983/1 of 23 August 1983,[2] 1995/20 of 24 August 1995,[3] 1996/19 of 29 August 1996[4] and 1997/8 of 22 August 1997,[5]

(*b*) The reports of the Special Rapporteur of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities on traditional practices affecting the health of women and children and of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on violence against women, its causes and consequences,

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[1] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1997, Supplement No. 3* (E/1997/23), chap. II, sect. B.

[2] See E/CN.4/1984/3-E/CN.4/Sub.2/1983/43 and Corr.1 and 2, chap. XXI, sect. A.

[3] See E/CN.4/1996/2-E/CN.4/Sub.2/1995/51, chap. II, sect.A.

[4] See E/CN.4/1997/2-E/CN.4/Sub.2/1996/41, chap. II, sect. A.

[5] See E/CN.4/1998/2-E/CN.4/Sub.2/1997/50, chap. II, sect.A.

(*c*) The reports of the United Nations Regional Seminars on Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Children, which were held in Burkina Faso in 1991[6] and Sri Lanka in 1994,[7] and the Plan of Action for the Elimination of Harmful Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Children,[8]

(*d*) The Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights, held at Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993,[9] which proclaims, *inter alia*, that gender-based violence and all forms of sexual harassment and exploitation, including those resulting from cultural prejudice, are incompatible with the dignity and worth of the human person and which stresses the importance of working towards the eradication of any conflicts which may arise between the rights of women and the harmful effects of certain traditional or customary practices,

(*e*) The Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,[10] which calls upon Governments and communities to take steps urgently to stop the practice of female genital mutilation and to protect women and girls from all such similar dangerous practices,

(*f*) The Beijing Declaration[11] and the Platform for Action,[12] adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women, which, *inter alia*, call upon Governments to enact and enforce legislation against the perpetrators of practices and acts of violence against women, such as female genital mutilation, female infanticide, prenatal sex selection and dowry-related violence, and to give vigorous support to the efforts of non-governmental and community organizations to eliminate such practices,

(*g*) The commitment of all States to fulfil their obligations to promote universal respect for and observance of all human rights and fundamental freedoms,

(*h*) Article 5 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[13] which provides that States parties shall take all appropriate measures to modify the social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women, with a view to achieving the elimination of prejudices and customary and all other practices that are based on the idea of the inferiority or the superiority of either of the sexes or on stereotyped roles for men and women, as reiterated in the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action,

(*i*) General recommendation 14 of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women concerning female genital mutilation,[14]

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[6] E/CN.4/Sub.2/1991/48.

[7] E/CN.4/Sub.2/1994/10.

[8] E/CN.4/Sub.2/1994/10/Add.1 and Corr.1.

[9] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[10] See *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[11] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[12] Ibid., annex II.

[13] Resolution 34/180, annex.

[14] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 38* (A/45/38), para. 438.

(*j*) Article 24 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[15] which provides that States parties shall take all effective and appropriate measures with a view to abolishing traditional practices prejudicial to the health of children,

(*k*) The Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, held at Cairo from 29 April to 8 May 1995,[16] in particular its resolution 8 of 7 May 1995 on the elimination of violence against women,

(*l*) The extensive work of the Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Children,

Reaffirming that certain traditional or customary practices affecting the health of women and girls constitute a definite form of violence against women and girls and a serious violation of their human rights, and expressing concern at the continuing large-scale existence of such practices,

1. *Welcomes*:

(*a*) The progress achieved by a number of Governments in their struggle against harmful traditional or customary practices, in particular against female genital mutilation, and encourages the Governments in question to continue and to increase their efforts aimed at the eradication of these practices;

(*b*) The work carried out by the Special Rapporteur of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities on traditional practices affecting the health of women and children;

(*c*) The joint statement by the World Health Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations Population Fund on female genital mutilation, which expresses a common purpose in supporting the efforts of Governments and communities to promote and protect the health and development of women and children by promoting awareness of the problem and by educating the public, health workers and those who carry out the practice, on all its health consequences;

(*d*) The appointment of a special ambassador of the United Nations Population Fund for the elimination of female genital mutilation;

(*e*) The efforts undertaken by the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Fund for Women and other United Nations bodies, programmes and organizations to raise awareness of this issue;

(*f*) The work carried out by non-governmental and community organizations in raising awareness of the harmful effects of female genital mutilation and other traditional or customary practices affecting the health of women and girls;

(*g*) The fact that the Commission on the Status of Women will address the critical areas of concern, namely, "Violence against women", "The girl child" and "Human rights of women", at its session in 1998 and "Women and health" at its session in 1999, and invites the Commission to address the issue of harmful traditional or customary practices during those sessions;

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[15] Resolution 44/25, annex.

[16] See A/CONF.169/16, chap. I.

2. *Emphasizes*:

(*a*) The need for Governments to analyse, from a gender perspective, all policies and programmes, particularly those relating to poverty, health and violence against women, with a view to assessing their implications for women and men;

(*b*) The need for national legislation and/or measures prohibiting harmful traditional or customary practices as well as for their implementation, *inter alia*, through appropriate measures against those responsible;

(*c*) The need to improve women's position in society and to promote their economic independence;

(*d*) The importance of education and the dissemination of information in raising awareness, in all sectors of society, of the serious consequences of traditional or customary practices affecting the health of women and girls and the responsibilities of Governments in this regard;

(*e*) The necessity of involving, among others, public opinion leaders, educators, religious leaders, medical practitioners, women's health and family planning organizations and the media in publicity campaigns, with a view to promoting a collective and individual awareness of the human rights of women and girls and of how harmful traditional or customary practices violate those rights;

(*f*) That information and education with regard to harmful traditional or customary practices should also be targeted at men and that they should be encouraged to be responsive to such information and education;

(*g*) The importance of coordination between the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and the relevant treaty bodies, the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on violence against women, its causes and consequences and the Commission on the Status of Women, including through the exchange of information, and encourages them, within their respective mandates, to continue to pay attention to traditional or customary practices affecting the health of women and girls;

(*h*) The need for financial and technical assistance for developing countries from United Nations funds and programmes, as well as from international and regional financial institutions and bilateral and multilateral donors, so as to assist Governments in combating such practices;

3. *Calls upon* all States:

(*a*) To implement their international commitments in this field, *inter alia*, under the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,[9] the Beijing Declaration[11] and the Platform for Action[12] of the Fourth World Conference on Women, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development[10] and the Plan of Action for the Elimination of Harmful Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Children;[8]

(*b*) To ratify, if they have not yet done so, the relevant human rights treaties, in particular the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[13] and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[15] and to respect and fully implement their obligations under the relevant human rights treaties to which they are parties, emphasizing the incompatibility between the continuation of these harmful traditional or customary practices and the obligations they have voluntarily undertaken through the ratification of such international human rights instruments;

(*c*) To include specific information on measures taken to eliminate traditional or customary practices harmful to the health of women and girls in their reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and to the Committee on the Rights of the Child;

(*d*) To intensify efforts to raise awareness of and to mobilize international and national public opinion concerning the harmful effects of female genital mutilation and other traditional or customary practices affecting the health of women and girls, in particular through education, the dissemination of information and training, with the aim of achieving the total elimination of these practices;

(*e*) To develop and implement national legislation and policies prohibiting traditional or customary practices harmful to the health of women and girls, particularly female genital mutilation;

(*f*) To support women's organizations, at the national and local levels, working for the elimination of female genital mutilation and other traditional or customary practices harmful to the health of women and girls;

(*g*) To cooperate closely with the Special Rapporteur of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities on traditional practices affecting the health of women and children and to submit information on such practices with a view to enabling her to assess the progress achieved and obstacles encountered in implementing the Plan of Action for the Elimination of Harmful Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Children;

(*h*) To cooperate closely with relevant United Nations funds, programmes and the specialized agencies, such as the World Health Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, as well as with relevant non-governmental and community organizations, in a joint effort to eradicate harmful traditional or customary practices affecting women and girls;

4. *Decides*:

(*a*) To invite the Commission on Human Rights to address this issue at its fifty-fourth session;

(*b*) To request the Secretary-General to make the outcome of the discussions in the Commission on the Status of Women on this issue available to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-fourth session, if necessary, in the form of an oral report;

(*c*) To also request the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session on the implementation of the present resolution.

70th plenary meeting
12 December 1997